The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 21, 1921, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 7. NO. 46. WASHINGTON. D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9. 1918. WHOLE NO. 358.

HIGH COST OF LIVING EXCEEDS WAGE RAISES

Washington, Feb. 9.—Wage increases of 5, 10 or 20 per cent are insignificant when compared with increased living costs, figures are given today in the first report of a committee of economists appointed by the government to study the purchasing power of money in war time.

On the question of living costs, the committee says:

"The living cost and the level of commodity prices in general are, of course, a wide and always extremely high. The average wholesale prices in the United States in March of this year are at about what that of July, 1914; that is, the purchasing power of money over goods in the wholesale markets has been almost cut in half.

"The rise in retail prices of foods is in the same period has been 57 per cent. This means a reduction to less than two-thirds in the purchasing power of money over foods in the retail markets. Abroad the rise of prices has been much greater.

"Between 1896 and 1914 wholesale prices in the United States were rising at the average rate of seventy-five one-hundredths of 1 per cent per month; but even that small rate is long continued to be enough to make the C. of L. a very painful fact."

The committee opposes the plan of citizens borrowing money from banks to buy liberty loans, as this tends to increase bank credits and thus increases in commodity prices.

"The frank and honest way of saving is by spending less or earning more," says the committee.

A warning note is sounded on the results that will follow the "business as usual" theory, which will prevent necessary saving and economy, and so long that is essential to win the war.

NATION WASTES COAL SAYS U. S. SCIENTISTS

Washington, Feb. 9.—Only 4 per cent of the coal mined in the United States yields its full value to society, according to a statement issued today by a government establishment maintained for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

"To explain the present coal shortage by transportation, congestion or car shortage is to overlook the more beneficial cause," it is stated.

The whole dilemma, of course, are concrete means through which the trouble makes itself felt, but back of these directions is far-reaching failure to work out a proper development of America's greatest resource. The trouble is not that insufficient coal is mined and transported, but that the present output is inadequately used. Its full commodity value is not obtained."

Too great a demand is placed on anthracite coal, which is limited in production to a few counties in Pennsylvania, it is stated.

"But bituminous coal is dirty and its widespread utilization as such would be a long step backward in tarding progress in civic betterment even that small step, 30 per cent waste in commodity bulk.

"This waste, however, which appears to be inherent in coal as a commodity convertible into gas, tar, ammonia, benzol and an endless number of by-products, such as dyes, medicines and explosives. It is, therefore, possible by proper shaping of economic policy to remove the disproportionate drain on the limited supply of bituminous coal. The most wasteful third part of bituminous coal into useful products, to eliminate smoke from cities, and so to distribute the sources of domestic fuel supply as to alleviate, if not entirely solve, the labor and transportation perplexities of the present situation.

"These desirable results are already in course of natural development, but the present war-time emergency requires as it is by lack of proper stimulus and excess of misdirected pressure."

"JOIN RESERVE AND WAIT."

Washington, Feb. 9.—The campaign for volunteers to enlist in the new public service reserve of the department of labor should not be started, except as a call for men for immediate employment, says Secretary of Labor Wilson, in a statement to volunteer workers to wait for orders after they have joined the reserve.

"Great confusion and hardship may result," he said, "from the mistaken belief that the ship yards are asking men to enlist in the land service reserve. Many shipbuilding concerns are employing three men temporarily before they can secure one permanent worker. Entirely aside from the confusion, the loss of efficiency and productive capacity, the forced pace of the plan is unfair to the nation, is staggering, considering that we must by July 1 maintain in constant, working order the agencies for handling 60,000 men in the 15 shipbuilding plants near New York."

FOOD PRICES ADVANCE.

Washington, Feb. 9.—As compared with the previous month the retail prices of food as a whole decreased 1 per cent in January, according to the bureau of labor statistics in its Monthly Review.

In the year from November 16, 1916, to November 15, 1917, prices as a whole increased 17 per cent. Clothing also showed a decline. Corn meal advanced 87 per cent, bacon 62 per cent, lard changed 61 per cent, sugar 58 per cent, salmon 38 per cent, milk 32 per cent and lard 27 per cent.

Food as a whole was 45 per cent higher on November 15, 1917, than on November 15, 1913, and 46 per cent higher than on October 15, 1914. During the five-year period, corn meal advanced 107 per cent, flour 109 per cent, lard 104 per cent, bacon 77 per cent, sugar 75 per cent and potatoes 73 per cent. No article declined in price.

BOOKBINDERS GAIN

Indianapolis, Feb. 9.—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders report that for the month ending January 10, 216 new members were secured.

Wage agreements were negotiated at Austin, Texas; Olympia, Wash.; Hamilton, Ontario; Lafayette, Ind.; Des Moines and Dubuque, Iowa; Chicago and Topeka, Kan. Men and women members profit by these agreements.

Bookbinders' locals are voting this month to change the convention date from the second Monday in June to the second Monday in May, because of the change in the convention date of the A. F. of L.

WAGE RAISES FOR CAR MEN.

Beaumont, Tex., Feb. 8.—A wage increase of 2 cents an hour has been given conductors and motormen employed by the Beaumont Traction company and the Jefferson County Traction company. The management is ordering "Conservation" on advertising food and warm clothing, for it notifies its employes:

"We trust, however, that it will be clearly borne in mind by all of our men that the company and its employes have the same opportunity through the general increase in prices which has taken place."

TO SURVEY WOMEN WORKERS.

Chicago, Feb. 9.—Agnes Nestor, first vice president of the International Glove Workers' union, and Elisabeth Maloney of the Women's Trade Union League, have been appointed assistant commissioners of Illinois industrial survey commission, created by the last legislature. The commission will devote attention to the conditions under which women of this state work. Legislation will then be recommended.

PACKERS DEFY U. S.

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Meat packers have concluded that the federal trade commission shall not investigate too much of their "inside" business, which includes attempts to block an investigation by congress.

The packers now refuse to surrender their confidential documents and have broken the government seal on a vault containing important papers.

BARBERS REDUCE HOURS.

Alliance, Ohio, Feb. 9.—Barber shops in this city are opening at 7:30 a. m. instead of 7 o'clock and Saturday night closing will be at 9 o'clock instead of 9:30.

BAKERS GET INCREASE.

Cincinnati, Feb. 9.—A large number of non-union bakers have voluntarily raised wages 12 a week.

SCALES OF JUSTICE UNEVENLY BALANCED

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

On January 2 the United States supreme court, upon the motion of the attorney general, continued to the next term of court hearings in the criminal cases against the International Harvester company of New Jersey, United States steel corporation, Eastman Kodak company, United Shoe Machinery company of New Jersey, Quaker Oats company, and the American Can company.

On January 14 the United States supreme court ordered Frank J. Hayes, John L. Lewis, William Green, Frank Moore, William Roy, Joe Kreamer, D. W. Lewis, Pete Bartoric, Mike Stefanick, Steve Kuchinski, and officers of the United Mine Workers of America, to appear before it March 11 to show cause why they should not be adjudged guilty of a contempt of the court and be punished accordingly."

A most remarkable contrast.

Great corporations treated with leniency.

Drastic action against organizations of workers.

Official reason assigned for the policy toward trusts was based on war emergency. The government in this time of stress may not meet with opposition. Private enterprise must in its financial operations and the flotation of its loans. In order to secure the co-operation of capital the treasury department felt constrained to urge that all private financing on a large scale shall be avoided as far as possible in order that the government may absorb the supply of new funds available for investment in the United States during the period of the war.

This policy of the supreme court is the result of complete failure to understand the fundamental issues involved in this war. Is it not generally recognized that it is indispensable for success that the spirit and will of the people behind the nation's representative. President.

Without the labor movement America's workers would have been the helpless victims of the profiteering which has flooded the country, and would have been driven to anarchistic methods of resistance. The governmental problem is then to retain the loyal co-operation offered by labor organizations.

The policy of the supreme court is in direct opposition. By a six to three decision it sought to "outlaw" the labor movement and to make illegal constructive organization for industrial justice and greater happiness among wage earners.

In the past 20 years a transformation has come in the lives of the coal miners—a transformation for better. this was accomplished was the organized labor movement. To deny any group the use of this method is to forbid progress. To deny workers the right of associated action is to leave them with no protection against employers' ignorance or greed. Employers' greed is the greatest menace to nation. Read the statement of one who has had national and world-wide opportunities for information. In his address to the congress December 2, President Wilson said: "The law of supply and demand, I am sorry to say, has been replaced by the law of unrestrained selfishness."

And yet the supreme court seeks to revive an eighteenth century restriction. Perhaps it is the spirit of war at a time when the atmosphere is charged with new concepts of associated effort, which has led to denial justice in political as well as industrial relations. Pressure of thinking men to meet new conditions which has made concepts fluid preparatory to precipitating new molds. And at such a time the supreme court seeks to superimpose conditions of the previous century and take from workers that which makes freedom real.

This effort to victimize the coal miners, through them themselves, and the officers of the United Mine Workers, comes when the government is doing its utmost to meet an extraordinary emergency that is causing terrific suffering in civil life and is seriously impeding war plans.

Th union miners have been doing their part to help win the war for government. They have tried to prevent interruption of production by securing agreement that would prevent dissatisfaction; they have purchased liberty bonds amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars; twenty thousand of their members are in the military and naval fighting forces. The United Mine Workers have offered the republic their earnings, their services in the mines, and their lives.

Are not that loyalty and that relationship of value to the government at any time and particularly in the present critical time?

Is there not just reason for trying to encourage a co-operation so necessary to success in this war?

Would not proper understanding and wise statesmanship dictate an industrial policy that would mobilize good will behind a national program? How is democracy to be defended if fundamental justice is denied and bald, cruel injustice is imposed?

PUBLIC OPINION FAVORS POST OFFICE EMPLOYES

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 9.—The Railway Post Office, official magazine of the Railway Mail association, reprints a large number of newspaper references to Postmaster General Burleson's admission sentiment in his annual report.

"With one exception, which was from the Los Angeles Times, conducted by the non of the late Harrison Gray Otis), every article received commended the action of the postmaster general in regard to the 'civil service employes,' says the Railway Post Office.

"There can be no mistaking of public sentiment regarding the just contention of postal employes that they have a right to effectively organize, and that their salaries are insufficient to meet the present conditions of living. The press has been discrimination and intelligence in dealing with these propositions, and has neither been frightened by the bogey of a postal strike, or misled by the unreasonable opposition of organized labor with those of the boys in the trenches. The strike menace has properly been laughed out of existence as utterly absurd and impossible; while the obvious unfairness of the present conditions in the trenches and the charge of selfishness of the point of being unpatriotic, are recognized as what they can sense of justice, that the public condemnation of these utterances has been almost unanimous."

DISMISS SKILLED LABOR.

Kansas City, Kan., Feb. 9.—General Organizer Dixon of the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers says that the Newport News (Va.) Ship Building and Dry Dock company is sending the men back to work on the Kansas City Bridge, which it maintains is a permanent agency in the interest of the government in the other districts for an additional 2,000 men.

"The significant feature of this circumstance," reports Dixon to the brotherhood's headquarters, "is that this fact makes men are the ones forced to lose time. In this way we have lost some of the very best men we had in the organization, and I am also convinced this route has been staked out by unpatriotic agents of our members who take an active interest in trade unionism."

EIGHT HOURS IN FINLAND.

Washington, Feb. 8.—In its Monthly Review of the Public Bureau of labor statistics prints an interesting summary of the present eight-hour movement in Finland.

Immediately after the revolution the senate passed a resolution introducing the eight-hour day. Since then work shops of the state railroads and the Kuopio Match Company, eight-hour agreements have been made between organized employers and trade unions in the metal, printing, saw mill, paper, pulp making and glass industries. Various private employers have introduced the plan, as have several municipalities. It is predicted that in a short time the eight-hour day will be universal in Finland.

TWO MEN CAUSE EXPLOSION.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Feb. 8.—Blame for the collision between the French munitions ship Mont Blanc and the Belgium relief ship Imo, resulting in the explosion of the former vessel, killing 1,500 persons, injuring several hundred and destroying a large part of Halifax, was placed squarely upon Pilot Mackay of Halifax and Captain Lamodee of the French ship, by the admiralty court of inquiry commission which investigated the collision. The accused have been arrested on manslaughter charges.

BOILER MAKERS GAIN.

Kansas City, Kan., Feb. 9.—During the past month the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers formed locals at Chattanooga, and Holloway and Lorain, Ohio. Locals were reorganized at Oswego, N. Y., and Sharon, Ohio.

It is also stated greater organizing activity is apparent in shipbuilding centers and better conditions are resulting.

BIG PROFITS IN STEEL.

Chicago, Feb. 9.—The Inland Steel company has issued the most remarkable statement of earnings yet reported by a major steel corporation. Its gross sales of about $53,000,000, the company shows net earnings of $11,240,000. After all expenses, including $1,000,000 for depreciation, the company shows net earnings of $10,240,000, or 19 per cent.

FAVOR EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 8.—Both branches of the state legislature have adopted a resolution requesting the two United States senators from this state to vote for the woman suffrage amendment to the federal constitution.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

Worcester, Mass., Feb. 9.—Brewery managers have voluntarily raised the wages of non-unionized brewery workers $2 a week.

WEINBERG TELLS HIS STORY.

San Francisco, Feb. 9.—Confined in jail and refused bail after acquittal on charges of conspiracy growing out of preparedness day bomb outrage, Israel Weinberg, writes from San Francisco Bulletin that from the day of his arrest every law has been violated to secure his conviction.

"I was arrested without a warrant, my house was searched without a warrant, and I have been ever since what was taken from my house," he says.

It was put through the third degree and was held incommunicado for eight days, which would not even let my attorney see me.

"I was indicted by the grand jury without a single witness testifying against me. I am supposed to be innocent until proven guilty, but I was not permitted to go to my trial and charged with a crime. I was announced as 'guilty as hell' before a syllable of evidence was produced against me.

"I was supposed to get my trial within 60 days after my indictments were returned, but I was 15 months in jail before my trial came on, and then I had to protest in open court to get it; and now I am acquitted and I am ordered back to jail. Acquittal, the presumption of innocence which the law gives to every man, being before proven innocent does not even raise the presumption of innocence in my favor, but I am to be already two months since I was acquitted, and I again demand my trial and can not get it."

MOLDERS RAISE WAGES.

Philadelphia, Feb. 9.—Negotiations with the Foundrymen's club has resulted in wages for iron molders being increased $1 a day for 5,000 organized employes are affected.

Hamilton, Ohio, Feb. 9.—At the Miami valley conference board of the metal trades council, at which numerous wage increases were reported, most prominent being that of $4 a day has been increased to $5, with an additional 25 cents a day, beginning May 1.

Augusta, Ga., Feb. 5.—The Lombard iron works has conceded the 45-cent wage demand of striking iron molders. The latter comprise one-tenth of the largest of its kind in the south.

AN IMITATION PATRIOT.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 9.—Assemblyman Decker introduced a bill in the state legislature which would conscript all "able-bodied males between 18 and 60 years of age" and place them in employment and state work under the direction of the governor during the war.

Mr. Decker then waited for the plaudits of those who favor conscription, but was hurt later in the day the speaker of the assembly read a letter from several of Decker's constituents in which they charged him with being a slacker of the highest order in registering under the military conscription law. Mr. Decker admits he did not register for military service, but declared he was physically disabled for military service.

WAGES IN TENNESSEE.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 9.—In his annual report, Lamar B. Allen, state factory inspector, says the average weekly wage of male adults in Tennessee for the year 1917 was as follows: 1913, $13.68; 1914, $13.17; 1915, $12.81; 1916, $13.37; 1917, $14.

The average wages of female adults for the past five years were: 1913, $6.92; 1914, $7.47; 1915, $8.58; 1916, $8.69; 1917, $7.40.

The average weekly wage of minors during 1917 was $6.

It is stated that most of the workers who left this state to secure employment in northern munitions plants have returned.

LUMBER INTERESTS BLAMED.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Testifying before the senate military committee committee Major Charles R. Sligh charged that lumber interests in the northwest are responsible for the inadequate production of spruce for aeroplanes because in obtaining the spruce it was necessary to cut millions of feet of other lumber. This, said the witness, would create a surplus of lumber and lead to reduce prices.

STREET CAR MEN STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 9.—Street car men employed by the United Railways company struck today in protest against the employment of women at rates below the prevailing wage.

UNITING NEGRO WORKERS.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 9.—Trade unionists are organizing negro workers in this city and predict that they will establish the largest union of these workers in Alabama.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Colorado Springs, Col., Feb. 8.—The Typographical union has raised wages $1 a week, one-third of the paid increase to be applied to the pension plan, and the remainder to be paid to printing workers $2 a week.

NO NEED FOR MEXICANS

Washington, Feb. 8.—Assistant Secretary of Labor Post says there is no necessity for importation of laborers from Mexico and China.

"The agitation for such action is prejudicial," he says, "because it inspires false impressions that there is not a sufficient supply of domestic labor. The war-labor problem will be solved just as soon as the people of a whole realizes that there is no general labor shortage and devotes its efforts to distribution of the available supply.

"Any additional demands for common labor can be met by bringing in American citizens from Porto Rico and the Philippines. Porto Rico has an agricultural territory, and yet has a density of population that is exceeded only in Belgium and Holland. There is eight times greater than that of the agricultural state of Iowa. Under the present conditions there, a considerable surplus of workers exists in the island. Many of the transfers to these to continental United States at actual benefit would be conferred upon them."

CAN'T SELL "GOLD BRICKS."

Philadelphia, Feb. 9.—Harry A. Mackey, chairman of the state workmen's compensation board, warns prospective buyers that the board will investigate every case where women are asked to invest their compensation awards and will refuse to pay over money in bulk for building investment companies or home selling schemes that they cannot support.

It was shown that in one case a widow who had been awarded $7.50 a week by the board had been induced to give the lump sum to buy a $5,000 house in South Bethlehem, in which the real estate company reserved title. The board refused to grant her request and told her to select a property within her means.

HOUSE RENTS SOAR.

Orange, Tex., Feb. 9.—House rents at this place have more than doubled since the announcement of the big building industry along the Sabine river. An investigation shows that a three-room house that rented in 1916 for $7 a month now rents for $14; in 1915 a five-room house was $14; it now is $25. Business buildings are up and thrown together in the most temporary fashion and rented for a few months ago, but have since been jumped to $25 a month.

Several small business formerly renting for $7 are now in the $20 class and the cost for negro shacks has increased from $3 to $10 and $15.50 a month.

CHEAP LABOR AT ASYLUM.

Jackson, Miss., Feb. 9.—A legislative investigation has disclosed the fact that the state asylum pays prisoners the high cost of labor at the state hospital for the insane. Nurses in training receive $10 a month and board, while the pay of female attendants ranges from $15 to $20 a month and board; the greater portion of them receiving $20. The average pay of male attendants is $25 a month and board. Some of the latter are married and support families from their meager salaries.

FAIL TO EMPLOY CONVICTS.

Mobile, Ala., Feb. 9.—An alert trades union movement succeeded in blocking an attempt of the state prison board to employ convicts on the theory that there is a shortage of labor in this vicinity. Acting upon information of various denial of the claim and the county commissioners rejected the offer. The state prison board company offered to pay $22 a month for each convict.

In the Birmingham district, this state, there are between 40 and 60 miners out of employment.

PROBE HEALTH INSURANCE.

Chicago, Feb. 9.—Matthew Woll, president of the International Photo Engravers' union, and Miss Agnes Nestor, secretary of the Bindery Women's union are included in Governor Lowden's appointees on the state health insurance commission, created by the last legislature, to investigate and report on the question of state health insurance.

MAKES DYES OUT OF SALT.

Washington, Feb. 9.—While the house was discussing the agricultural appropriation bill Congressman Fordney made the interesting statement that in Michigan salt brine was pumped out of the ground and made into raw material for dyes, and that two manufacturers were experimenting in making indigo dye from salt brine.

MORE WORKERS THAN JOBS.

Salt Lake City, Utah., Feb. 9.—The state free employment bureau reports that during the first half of February 642 persons registered for position, found work and 256 secured employment.

EMPLOYERS' "BOUNTY" VS. UNIONS' JUSTICE

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 9.—The annual report of the United States steel corporation for 1917 submitted today shows that the sum of $712,506.64 was distributed last year to 2,522 retired employes of the steel trust. The average pension was $21.10 a month.

Contrasted with this "bounty" of an employer who denies his workers the right of industrial freedom—to fix their own wages by the terms of the members of the International Typographical Union, who have set aside a sum sufficient to pay $5 a week for pensions.

Certainly the trust receives much publicity for its benevolence, which can be taken away at will, while the printers' plan is a tribute to the justice awarded their aged or incapacitated associates.

Another striking contrast is this fund out of their daily wage, while the trust's fund is maintained by $12,000,000 set aside by it and Andrew Carnegie. That this vast sum has not come from the general resources of the trust is shown by its last quarterly report, which states that the operating expenses for the year 1917 were $30,000,000 in excess of the total income and excess profits tax, the clear profit amounting to $42,000,000. The trust declares all charges a balance of $44,166,064 remained to be divided among stockholders.

CAN'T FORCE LABOR.

Washington, Feb. 9.—You can commandeer the worker, but that does not prove that you can compel him, said J. W. Powell, vice president of the Bethlehem steel ship building corporation, in a statement to committee. The witness insisted that compulsory labor is impracticable. The real labor problem, he said, is the human element in labor he characterized as "fatal."

Mr. Powell blamed labor for "slowing down" in building ships. Further on he said: "Because of a material tied up in freight jams. We kept track of these cars and found that they were held for days at a time in 17 days. We needed this material badly in our building program."

PROFITEERS WARNED.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Food Administrator Hoover has warned dealers they must not take advantage of the embargoes placed in other cereals brought on by the heavy demand the new baking regulations have caused.

"Unlicensed food retailers (who do a business of less than $100,000 a year) who sell at more than a reasonable profit will have their supplies cut off through the notification of all licensees by the food administration forbidding them to sell to unlicensed or cheating retailers," said the food administrator.

U. S. CONTROLS FUEL OIL.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Government control of the distribution of fuel oil and the licensing of distributors has been announced by the fuel administration.

All refiners and distributors whose annual sales exceed 50,000 barrels are required to obtain licenses. It is estimated that about 200 companies will thereby be controlled.

The government control does not extend to gasoline, kerosene (or coal oil) or lubricants, only to fuel oil in its technical application. Fuel oil is described by the trade as refuse residues of crude oil as it comes from the wells.

WANT JUDGES RECALLED.

Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 9.—The central labor council of this city will submit an amendment to the United States constitution providing for the recall of federal judges.

These courts, it is declared, have assumed to pass upon the law and the meaning of the law, and the constitutional rights of the people are not being left to the people whose interest is permitted to exercise this power.

OPPOSE STATE POLICE.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 9.—Organized labor is opposing the state constabulary bill now pending in the state legislature. The state chamber of commerce, which represents the business men, is supporting this measure on the ground that it will prevent strikes. Labor leaders declare that the proposed law will create an anti-strike machine.

AGREE TO ARBITRATE.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 9.—Organized electrical workers and the Southern California Edison company have agreed to submit wage differences to arbitration.

METAL WORKERS UNITE.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 9.—The metal trades council of the Birmingham district have formed a metal trades council.

BANKERS DICTATED RAILROADS' POLICY

Indianapolis, Feb. 9.—In an appeal to the members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen to exert themselves as never before, and assist the government to operate railroads, President Carter of that organization said:

"It should be remembered that if the government now makes a success of its experiment, it will be a reflection upon those banker railroad officials who have made such a failure. It is my opinion that until the high railroad officials understand that their jobs depend upon their loyalty to the government, rather than to their creators, the government has not much to expect from them.

"But the government has much to expect from the hundreds of thousands of railroad employes who it has entirely in its power if it possible to operate railroads under an administration conducted by professional railroad wreckers.

"We must not overlook the fact that under the present system of control due to a high official position, regardless of their managerial ability, men are not willing to subordinate their conscientious sense of justice to the demands of those under who they work.

"Just as soon as railway officials realize that Wall street is no longer their master to whom they must look for employment, I believe that many of the officials who have taught their employes to hate them, will gladly avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the government to show that they are not only honorable men—not only efficient railroad managers, but men who would gladly extend justice to the hundreds of thousands of railway employes whose expert co-operation must be the foundation of all railway operating efficiency."

WHY THEY OPPOSE UNIONS.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 8.—At the annual banquet of the anti-union Merchants' and Manufacturers' association, President Judah said:

"While our association realized that the cost of living had greatly increased, and that the wages of the laboring classes should be correspondingly advanced, yet the demands made by the leaders were of such a character that they could not be met by the employers to the extent to which they were submitted."

To this statement the Citizen, published by organized labor in this city replies:

"A careful reading of the above will reveal the fact that no mention is made of any demands having been made by unorganized labor in San Francisco and immediate vicinity. In each community there are thousands of workers in employment can be made, without fear of successful contradiction, who, in whole, do not earn as much as the wage earners of this city."

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

New York, Feb. 9.—Stereotypers' union No. 1 has raised wages from $30 per day or week to $5.38 1-2, with $1 an hour for overtime.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 9.—Stereotypers and electrotypers have signed new wage agreements with newspapers in this city. The old rate of $4 for day or night work is increased to $4.50 and $4.50 during the life of the contract.

Ottawa, Ontario, Feb. 9.—Wages for stereotypers and electrotypers employed in the civil service branch of the printing have been increased from $30 to $34 a week.

Boston, Feb. 9.—For the first time in many years Electrotypers' union No. 11 has secured agreement with newspapers in this city. The old rate of $34 per week is increased, with a working week of 48 hours.

SENATOR HUGHES IS DEAD.

Paterson, N. J., Feb. 9.—William Hughes, United States senator from this state, died in a Trenton hospital after a long illness. Hughes was born in this city, and worked in textile mills in his early years. For eight years he was a member of the national house of representatives and at the time of his death was serving his first term as United States senator.

He was a member of the congressional labor group and took an active part in the legislative program urged by organized labor. He leaves a widow and two daughters, 18 and 8 years old.

SMOKES FOR SOLDIERS.

Boston, Feb. 9.—To make two cigars each working day for American soldiers in France, in the task which 2,500 members of Chapter MM, Massachusetts Women's Relief Corps, No. 97 has set for themselves, in order that the 250,000 soldiers' cigar and tobacco fund, being raised by the union, may go as far as possible.

Cigar manufacturers are cooperating and it is expected that the members of the commercial and book printing offices of this city will also help, thereby increased and working conditions improved.

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WANT HIGHER WAGES.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 8.—Public school janitors are demanding higher wages from the board. They ask $100 per month, $10 days in the year with no pay for holidays and a reduction in hours of work averages from 56 to 48 hours a day with a maximum wage of 70 cents an hour.

PAINTERS ADVANCE.

Peoria, Ill., Feb. 9.—The Painters' union has signed a contract with the Peoria Manufacturers' association, one of the largest constructing firms in this section of the state. The firm had refused a non-union for a number of years.

CARPENTERS ADVANCE.

San Francisco, Feb. 9.—The carpenters' union scale of $6 for an eight-hour day is now effective. Carpenters employed in ship yards receive $5.60 a day.

DRIVERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Feb. 9.—Laundry Wagon Drivers' union No. 256 has secured an increase in wages which provides for wages increased from $15 to $18 a week.

GERMAN EMPIRE RULED BY MILITARY PRUSSIA

Washington, Feb. 9.—Military Prussia, under the 25 members of the German lower legislative branch (the reichstag) and has 17 votes of a total of 61 votes in the upper legislative branch (the bundesrat). The latter is responsible only to the rulers of the states which appoint them.

The above is contained in a summary of German political history compiled by Samuel B. Harding, professor of European history in the Indiana university, and submitted to the Congressional Record at the request of Senator Gore of Oklahoma.

Prof. Harding says:

"The number of states in the empire is 25, with one imperial territory (Alsack-Lorraine). The list includes four kingdoms, six grand duchies, five duchies, seven principalities, and three free cities. Each of these states has its separate state government, subordinate to that of the empire.

"The king of Prussia is hereditary German emperor, with full direction of foreign and military affairs.

"The federal council (bundesrat) is a council of ambassadors appointed by the rulers of the separate states, and responsible to them. It oversees the legislative and military administration, and is the most powerful body in the empire. The states are represented proportionally in this body, which contains two-thirds of the population of Germany, and has votes out of a total of 61. (If we include the 2 votes allotted to Alsace-Lorraine in 1911, which are now exercised by the emperor, Prussia has 20 votes in the bundesrat, Bavaria has six votes, Saxony and Wurtemberg four each, and the other states fewer.

"The reichstag is the representative chamber of the empire. It is elected by universal, equal, direct suffrage of men over 25 years of age, by secret ballot. Election districts are very unequal in population. A Berlin deputy represents, on the average, 175,000 voters, whereas in East Prussia, home of the far-famed Junkers, an average of 34,000. The members are elected for a term of five years; but the emperor (with the consent of the bundesrat) dissolves the reichstag at any time and order new elections.

"The reichstag has little real empire is in the hands of a ministry, headed by the imperial chancellor. Unlike the ministers of the constituent governments, the German ministers are responsible to the emperor, and not to the legislative assembly. They do not need, therefore, to resign their offices when defeated in the reichstag."

POWERS OF R. R. WAGE BOARD

Washington, Feb. 8.—As chairman of the railway wage commission Secretary of the Interior Lane has issued a letter of instructions defining the scope and duties of this commission.

"We seek for no counsel of perfection," he says. "The status of labor for all time is not to be determined by our studies, nor do we not expect to give all, that under present conditions we might compel, no more than we shall ask to accept the wage that our soldiers receive for their unequaled sacrifice.

"But a working basis must be arrived at between the employers and those who are employed on the roads by which justice to both shall be maintained and the fullest service obtained, for this is the primary object of the war. We must stay hand and brains shall serve the nation now as never before. We wish to shock, if possible, productions by doing what is just."

MINERS' WAGE NOT LARGE.

Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 9.—Weird newspaper stories of fabulous wages earned by miners is denied by members of the United Mine Workers in this city, who present these statistics on coal mined in this county during the month of December, 1917:

"First half of month, second week 2,950 tons by 72 miners in 11 1-2 days. Average per man, 3 1-2 tons per day.

"First half of month, third week 3,100 tons by 73 miners in 11 1-2 days. Average per man, 2 tons 200 pounds per day.

"Second half of month, second week 2,976 tons by 81 miners in 12 days. Averages per man, 3 tons 100 pounds per day.

"Second half of month, third week 3,046 tons by 77 men in 13 days. Average per man, 3 tons 100 pounds.

"This would make about $2.56 per day for each miner, based on the average of third week per day would be $2.62 per man."

The miners say that 16 years ago, 600 miners were employed in this county, but because of mild conditions and slack demand only 190 are employed.

WOULD USE OLD FACTORIES.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Conversion of so-called non-essential industries into war work, rather than the establishment of new factories, was indorsed at a conference of labor leaders with the public service reserve, affiliated with the department of labor, which is recruiting workers for essential industrial war service. By the use of existing plants, it was stated, distribution of labor will be simplified and confusion lessened. The directors emphasized the necessity of economic adjustments to the changes arising out of the war. The conference urged labor to go to new industrial centers.

OPPOSES NEW BUILDING.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo says home building is an excellent thing in normal times, but at present, under what is a real shortage of homes for war workers, "I strongly advise that materials, labor and money be diverted not utilized for this purpose. Whether homes should be built should be decided strictly by the urgency of the need."

14,519 CHILD PRISONERS.

New York, Feb. 9.—The annual report of the prison association of this city shows that 14,519 children came before the court last year, as the census of 2,056 more than the previous year. It is stated that toward the close of the year there was a decided increase, due to the scarcity of food and fuel and the difficulty of making proper provision for some children.

MACHINISTS' STRIKE ENDS.

Akron, Ohio, Feb. 9.—Organized machinists have adjusted their strike against the Miller rubber plant which was caused by victimizing trade unionists. The settlement includes the reinstatement of an obnoxious foreman.

NO LABOR SHORTAGE.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 9.—The Los Angeles Ship Building and Dry Dock company has announced that it is not looking for work workers. There are many in this city who are looking for work.